1913
S06

SORENSEN

A Wesleyan Quadrangle

Architecture

B. S.

1913

UNIV. OF
ILLINOIS
LIBRARY

THE UNIVERSITY

OF ILLINOIS

LIBRARY

1913
S06

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2013

http://archive.org/details/wesleyanquadrang00sore

A WESLEYAN QUADRANGLE

BY

NIELS CHESTER SORENSEN

THESIS

FOR

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

IN

ARCHITECTURE

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

1913

1913
S15

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

June 6, 1913

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE THESIS PREPARED UNDER MY SUPERVISION BY

Niels Chester Sorensen

ENTITLED A Wesleyan Quadrangle

IS APPROVED BY ME AS FULFILLING THIS PART OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE

DEGREE OF Bachelor of Science in Architecture

Frederick M. Mann

Instructor in Charge

APPROVED: Frederick M. Mann

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF Architecture

246521

913
S06

CONTENTS.

I. Problems.

II. Solution.

(a) Design.

(b) Construction.

THE RARE BOOK & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY
UIUC

I have chosen this subject "A Wesleyan Quadrangle" because I am a Methodist myself and would be naturally interested in the Methodist movement and their general welfare and conditions of students at the University of Illinois and because the subject offers great possibilities for architectural expression.

At a late Conference of the Methodists of Illinois, held at Trinity Church, Urbana, these were some of the considerations taken up:

I. The conveniences that the Church has to offer to the students for social purposes were entirely inadequate.

II. Provisions for giving Bible Study to the Methodist students were entirely inefficient.

That there is a demand for Bible Study is shown by the increase of Bible classes in the last three years. In fact in the last year the membership has doubled that of the preceding year. Other institutions, colleges, etc., are at present beginning to give credit for Bible Study. It would be given at the University of Illinois if competent instructors were secured.

In view of these considerations the following instructions were made to a building committee:

That it secure plans and suggestions for a building to be built on a lot which they now own bordering on Goodwin

Avenue and Green Street.

This building is to have the following rooms in it: On the first floor must be class rooms, a large social room, kitchen, Janitor's rooms, toilet rooms, etc. The class rooms should so be arranged that they can be thrown into larger rooms for socials, etc. On the second floor shall be a large Auditorium, seating capacity about 400. It is to serve the purpose of giving special lectures, banquets, etc. Space should also be provided for the keeping of a small library. Perhaps sufficient room could be provided under the windows. The building shall be one of real dignity and beauty. It should be complete in itself, but should so be arranged that additions might be added, making a good architectural arrangement. It should not cost over $100,000.00. Provision should be made such that if the Church wanted to it might spend $15,000 or $20,000 in further equipment, such as richly carved wood for lining the walls and decorating pilasters, etc. It would be well if there could be reminiscenses in this Hall of architectural and of historical features of Christ Church College at Oxford and Lincoln College and the Charter House School.

The Committee has a general plan of securing, in the future, the entire block, bordered by Goodwin, Illinois, Matthews and Green Streets and provisions should be made for getting the following buildings on it: The College Hall, the Church, parsonage, dormitories for men, dormitories for girls, library, assistant pastors home and a home for Faculty. It is

the hope of the Committee that this College Hall may be so placed that it could make up a unit in this larger scheme. In studying the dormitory problem I found it necessary to make further study in determining some of the underlying principles involved.

Our universities and colleges are fast coming to realize that the social side of student life must be recognized. The men must be brought together into a real community of college life. This can never be done by outside dormitories built by private enterprises because their effect is of necessity a segregation in a distinct college community based largely on wealth. It can be done only by means of modern college dormitories large enough to house a goodly percentage of the students, who are now being distributed among families. It is hard to find even in a large community a sufficient number of families which would exert a wholesome influence over the students. Families who are independent and expect an income are not willing to receive lodgers, least of all students, unless they assert some claim of acquaintance or friendship. Families who are dependent on students in part or whole on their living the students will control so many, either by direct or indirect influence that they cannot be relied upon for restraint except against the grossest accesses and not of a wish against them. To get the real benefit of college education men must live the life of a college. The students in order to enter into a common fellowship must have ready access to each other's society on an equal footing. They must occupy the same premises

by day and night so they can see one another in every variety of circumstances. They must be able to discuss topics of graver and of lighter interests. A dormitory system qualifies a student's desire of independence. It fosters that feeling of self reliance which cannot and ought not to be overpressed.

At the age when a boy enters college it is usually time for him to be released from petty and minute oversight of the domestic household and to be thrown somewhat upon himself. Residence in dormitories is also more safer than the distribution of students in lodgings. Should it be conceited that it is attended by certain peculiar temptations, it is also attended with certain more than counter-balancing advantages so far as it subjects the students to a more direct and ready supervision and brings him within the reach of healthful sentiment. Residence for lodging withdraws the student from supervision and opens abundant opportunity for secret mischief and vice. Whatever may be said and said with truth of the energy of temptation and the facilities to sin which inevitably arise in a congregated mass of excitable and passionate youths is offset what may be said with equal truth of the restraining and elevating influences which such a community developes within itself when its sentiment is properly directed and reinforced.

These considerations and problems were necessary in order to determine the proper relationship, not only between the buildings themselves but also between the rooms. This would involve immediately their proportionate size, shape, character, etc.

SOLUTION

Design.

It is obvious that the placing of this first building, College Hall, practically determines the plan lay-out of the entire lot of buildings. In reaching a feasible solution of the plan lay-out, several designs in plan sections and elevations were made. The final solution, that seemed to be the most logical, calls for the College Hall on the corner of Goodwin Avenue and Green Street and the Church on the corner of Matthews Avenue and Green Street. By this scheme if the College Hall was to remain for years alone without any additional buildings it would be a unit in itself. The lot that the Methodists now own on which the building would stand could be fenced in with an iron fence and possibly tennis courts could be placed inside and thus enhance the building by its general surroundings. In this solution the College Hall and the Church, since they are the largest of any one building, forms two masses, one at either end of the block and makes also a desirable composition. In solving the problem in this way and using the quadrangle scheme for the dormitories by request of the Committee, I discovered that the best solution was to keep the composition entirely within the north half of the block. In doing so I am leaving a good sized driveway passing through the center of the block bordering on Matthews Avenue and Green Street. This would supply ample light and air to the dormitories adjoining on the driveway. It would also offer possibilities for good architectural plan treatment for girl's dormitories, Faculty

home, etc., on the south half of the block, should the Methodists obtain option and eventually secure this property. And so it would seem that the best solution was to treat the design of the College Hall, Men's dormitories, assistant pastors home, parsonage and the church as one composition on the north half of the block.

I have made the entrance to the College Hall such that there would be direct communication to the large social hall, class rooms, toilet and waiting rooms and the Auditorium upstairs without going through either one of them in order to get to another. I have tried to make this large social hall as home-like and as attractive as possible so that a student would feel that it would be a place he would like to go and rest and spend his spare time. The general furnishings and equipment such as furniture would also help to a large extent in giving it the proper home-like atmosphere.

The class rooms are made large enough for ordinary sized classes and are provided with plenty of light on either side.

The kitchen in the rear is large enough to provide for banquets of most any size that might be held on the next floor. Two large lifts are provided for and by use of a secondary kitchen on the second floor together with a good sized stair case nearby, makes it possible to serve a large banquet without any delay between the courses. The space over the social rooms is given over to the temporary library. The third and fourth floors in the tower of College Hall give ample

provisions for suites of rooms for the entertainment of the guests of the students or visiting pastors.

In solving this dormitory problem the single house system would seem to be the most feasible. In the first place it is a practical plan where dormitories must be built by sections. It also eliminates the noise that re-echoes back and forth in long hallways. It does not give so much chance for students to cause so much disturbance to others who might be studying in the same building. The system has been worked out very satisfactorily at other colleges and institutions where dormitories are involved and it gives an opportunity for building additions to dormitories without sacrifice of architectural composition. I have tried to make the rooms as attractive as possible and yet being economical throughout with space. The conveniences they offer are strictly modern. Showers and toilets and other conveniences are provided on each floor.

By the quadrangle plan, a good ventilation and light is secured which is so desirable in student dormitories. I have tried to give the parsonage as much privacy and yet at the same time have it so placed as to be convenient to his work. The rooms are so provided that the pastor may readily entertain his guests and the family theirs without interferring with each other.

In the placing of the church I have felt that its light should be one of the essential things in the design. And in placing it so as to form one side of another quadrangle, the

best of light is secured from both sides.

In studying the church plan it was necessary to become thoroughly familiar with the various requirements and purposes. The customs, habits, practices and ordinances of the Methodist denomination had to be thoroughly studied in order to provide for all of them. This will explain why it is practically impossible to duplicate a church edifice in which the organized work of the church, its financial abilities, estimated accommodations, dimensions of the lot, the topography and the location with reference to streets are so different.

Every church building is erected for some specific purpose and the form best adapted to serve that purpose is the proper one. The statement will not be questioned that the principle use of the church is to afford an opportunity for a large number of people to hear the gospel preached. The people must also be able to take part in the services. This, however, is not the only purpose and it may be even questioned if it is the principle. If there are not others of more equally importance and so I paid particular attention to the design of a plan that would serve the problem right on the campus. I have given direct communication from the exterior to the choir room, to the Pastor's study and auditorium without cross circulation. This makes it possible for the pastor to go directly to his church study and to the pulpit without going through the auditorium. All services for the pulpit and the choir room may be supplies from the basement by means of back stair ways. Provision is also made for access to the basement

by means of a stair case in the tower.

In the treatment of the facade it was necessary to consider the location and general treatment of the whole quadrangle. This would seem to call for more or less massive in its general outline. And in doing this I have tried to give it a character of dignity, stability and beauty.

The basement is given over entirely to committee and social rooms of the church proper. In as much as the Sunday School, in its fullest development, is such an essential part of the church, I have given it a separate building. The growth of the Sunday School work has become such an important element in the work of the church that it demands better conveniences and better equipment than it has been given. Statistics show that 85% of the total membership of the church are members who have been brought into the church through the influence of the Sunday School. With such an important phase of the church the designer has thought it best to give it the first floor in a separate building nearby the main auditorium. This building is so designed that several classes may be in seccession without disturbing each other. The space in the gallery is treated in practically the same way as on the first floor. By this scheme the whole Sunday School body may be thrown open to one main body in a few minutes by means of folding doors. Direct circulation is provided through the main auditorium through a covered cloister.

On the first floor of the Library building on the left is provided places for stack cataloging, order and

receiving rooms. The entrance to the Library is on either side of the main entrance to the large quadrangle. This makes it possible for the public or students to use the Library without interferring with each other and by having the general offices above near the main stairway, ample supervision of the large reading room in second story is obtained. On the first floor of the Library on the right side of the entrance, the general business administration of the entire quadrangle is taken care of. It provides for waiting room for visitors, business offices, President's office, Postoffice, phone, etc.

Construction.

All footings are of concrete up to grade line, above this the foundation is of white Bedford stone. The face bricks are of dark red color and are laid in common bond except where the bond forms part of the decorative scheme. All corners, window caps, sills, and other trimmings are of Bedford stone.

The piers and buttresses supporting concentrated loads have footings in proportion to their size so as to properly distribute the load on the foundation bed.

The walls of all the buildings, except the College Hall and church have a general thickness of 24". Those of the church and College Hall are 30".

The main buildings are to be built of fire proofing material so far as it is possible. The roofs of the Library and College Hall are supported by steel trusses encased with carved wood. These support a covering of side concrete

re-inforced by wire mesh. The outer covering is to be covered by copper nailed to the concrete.

The floors are to be fire proofed and constructed of steel and beams which support a hollow tile floor. Over this a layer of cinder concrete is placed in which the sleepers carrying the finished floor, are laid.

The walls are finished with hollow tile, and the plastering placed directly on the tile.

REFERENCES.

Britton's "Cathedral Antiquities."

Gotches "Renaissance Architecture."

American Competition.

American Architect.

Brick Builder.

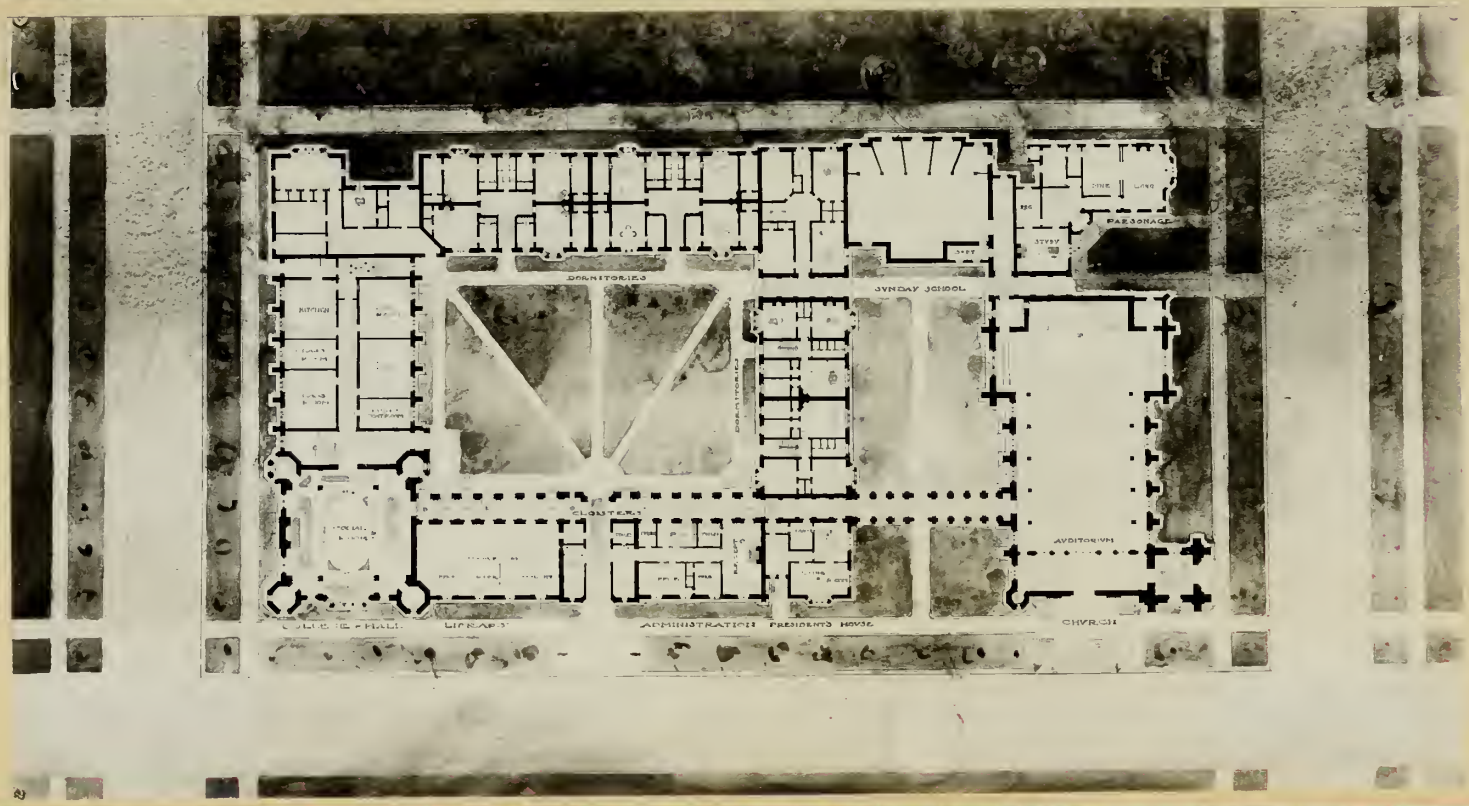
Kramer's "Churches and Sunday Schools."

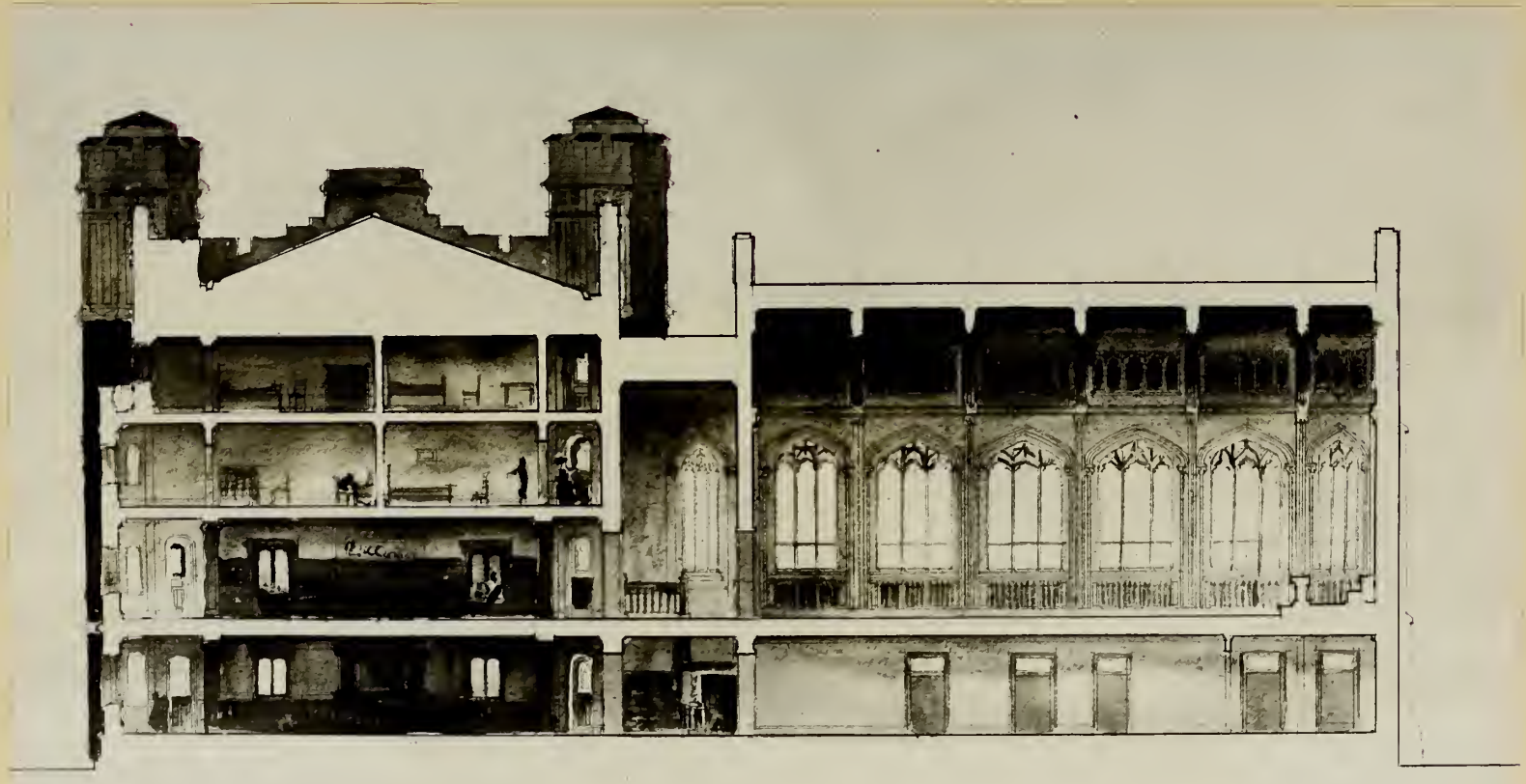
Pergine's "Specimen of Gothic Architecture."

Harvard Alumni.

Cambridge and Oxford Colleges. -

A WESLEYAN QUADRANGLE





UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA
3 0112 086859292